



VOTER

November 2008

Web site: www.romafh.org

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November Unit Meetings

Open to the Public

Speaker at both meetings, followed by questions and discussion:

David Paxson

President, World Population Balance

a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis with a mission to educate "about current population facts and trends, the consequences of population growth, and the benefits of stabilization"

Web Site: <www.worldpopulationbalance.org>

Third Tuesday Evening Unit

November 18, 2008

5:30 p.m. – Social Hour & Dinner (optional)

7:00 p.m. – Program

at

Grumpy's Restaurant

2801 N. Snelling Ave. (off Lincoln Drive), Roseville

Phone: 651-379-1180

Third Wednesday Morning Unit

November 19, 2008, 9:30 a.m.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

2561 N. Victoria Ave., Roseville

Bring a friend!

**2008-09 Board
& Off-Board Positions**

Co-Presidents

Teri Kysylyczyn & Ann Cleland

Secretary

Anne Haugan

Treasurer

Joan Stark

Program Division

Ann Berry, Georgeann Hall,
Diane Nystrom, Florence Sprague
(& coordinator of Diversity Subcom-
mittee), Judy Rosenblatt, *ex officio*

Lorraine Fischer, rep. to Council of
Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

Public Relations

Volunteer still needed

Action Chair

Volunteer still needed

Observer Program

Unit volunteers observe at city
council & school board meetings.
Sign up.

Voter Service

Linda McLoon & Julie Helwich

Membership

Karen Schaffer & Gale Pederson

Units / Administrative Assistant

Nancy Browne

Newsletter

Judy Rosenblatt, editor
Diane Nystrom, mailings

Finance Committee

Georgiana Sobola, Anita Mayfield,
& Joan Stark

Off-Board Responsibilities

Nominating Committee

Carolyn Cushing, Georgeann Hall,
& Julianne Johnston

(cont'd on page 3)

Co-presidents' Letter



By the time you read this, the elections will be over (along with the many political commercials, thank goodness). Our League will have hosted forums, distributed Voter Guides, and cast our ballots. Many thanks to **Linda McLoon**, along with **Julie Helwich** from our busy and hardworking Voter Service Committee. Linda has had an impressive 100% participation from the candidates. Many of our Leaguers assisted and attended the forums, and some also worked as election judges. Thank you to all who helped. Also, a huge THANK YOU to **Sandi Lutz** for getting us \$1400 from the Martin & Brown grant to the state League that we used to support our candidate forums!!

We are looking forward to the Program Committee's November unit meetings on world population balance. We hope you will be able to attend and bring along others who are interested in this issue.

There will be sign up sheets at units for our Observers Program. You may choose to go to one or more meetings; no long-time commitment unless you want it. League visibility and involvement is important. City council and school board meetings are vital; and after attending our Ramsey County Commissioners forum, I (Ann) think we really need to be at the commission meetings, too.

The County Commission meetings are held every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in downtown St Paul. I will be happy to drive a group of us down to observe, wearing our League buttons. If you are interested, contact me at 651-490-5038 or <anncleland@uno.com>.

Please consider volunteering for one of our open board positions. Either of us can give you the details. Teri's contact information: 651-484-1384 or <tkysylyczyn@knutson-cpa.com>.

See you at the unit meetings!

Ann Cleland and Teri Kysylyczyn, Co-presidents

Voter Service Committee: Thank You & Feedback, Please

A big thank you to all the League members who helped with our five candidate forums this year. We sponsored forums for the following races: Minnesota House of Representatives seats 54A and 54B, 55A and 55B; Roseville City Council; Ramsey County Commissioner districts 1, 2 and 7; Ramsey County Judge seat 21; and the Little Canada mayoral and city council races.

The Voter Service Committee could not have done all these forums without your help. Please remember to thank all the candidates for their participation (100% of the candidates participated!).

If you have suggestions for changes to the forums, please send them to me at linda.mcloon@gmail.com. We are considering adding a rebuttal opportunity, staggering the starts, and/or changing directions of questions part-way through the forum. Your input into these potential changes would be greatly appreciated.

Again, thanks to all of you who attended and thank you for all the help with timing and card sorting.

Your Voter Service Committee,

*Linda McLoon
Julie Hellwich
Christina Anderson*

Who Are the Soccer Moms and NASCAR Dads of the 2008 Election and Beyond?

FYI — A new report from the IPC reveals the growing political power of immigrants and their children. Here is the first part and links to the rest of the information.

October 23, 2008

Washington D.C.— Late on Election Day, pundits will begin to identify the demographic groups who are responsible for swinging the results in key races around the nation. Today, a groundbreaking report released by the Immigration Policy Center (IPC) entitled “The New American Electorate: The Growing Political Power of Immigrants and Their Children” examines the growing electoral clout of a previously unidentified yet pivotal group of voters in key states around the nation—naturalized immigrants and the U.S.-born children of immigrants raised during the current era of immigration that began in 1965.

“New American voters are now the fastest growing demographic group in the American electorate,” said Rob Paral, author of the report. “This group of New American voters is critical to highlight as their growth

(cont'd on p. 4)

Off-Board *cont'd from p. 2*

Coordinator for Rosefest Parade / Rep. to Gavel Club

Barb Yates

Records / Directory / Web site

John Kysylyczyn

Book Sale Coordinators

Joyce Blomquist & Nancy Irsfeld

Annual Meeting Coordinators

Carole Erickson & Mary Ann Palmer

Coordinator for VIP Meeting

(discuss issues with legislators)

Volunteers needed

Windows and Mirrors for All

Fall In

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator



This autumn I have been fortunate to have had several opportunities to enjoy the sumptuous fall foliage, first in northern Wisconsin and then in southwestern Pennsylvania. Despite gray skies and drizzly weather some days, the variegated hillsides fed some need in me for color, change, and beauty.

As we drove, the colors of the trees on far distant hills often merged, while woods close by passed in a blur,

but the vistas in the mid-distance displayed the glorious colors of fall to great advantage. The most striking were the hillsides with the greatest diversity of species—from the green melting into lemon yellow of silver maples through golden orange and red sugar maples through russet oaks and deep green evergreens, accented with red sumac and others. Monoculture forests just don't do it for me.

Monoculture is not favored in nature either. A healthy ecosystem utilizes a wide variety of plants and animals for stability. In agriculture, monoculture farming requires more pesticides than farms with smaller fields and routine crop rotation. Seventh grade science students learn about the survival benefits of variety within a species, and now scientists are creating a seed bank to protect botanical genetic diversity as climate changes and genetic engineering modify planting choices. The benefits of variety are far more than cosmetic.

Human diversity is also far more than skin deep. Do you know someone with a real knack for fixing things? Someone with a lovely singing voice? Someone witty? Someone whose piecrust melts in your mouth? A scientist who grasps quarks and quantum physics? People have different talents and inclinations and we need them all. We need people of compassion and people of strength of body and will. We need them, every one; our human ecosystem thrives and survives more surely with more minds, more ideas, more inclusion.

I can remember gazing at my newborn sons and wondering just who they would be. What would their personalities be and what would they do with their lives? Why do we only wonder this about babies? Why not about every new person we meet?

Let the beauty of autumn be a gentle reminder of the beauty of humanity of all skin tones, all vocations, all persuasions. We are all the same, yet all unique. We are interdependent. Savor the sumptuous variety in our world and fall in to wonder anew.



*Growing political power
of immigrants & their children
cont'd from p. 3*

has been utterly unprecedented.”

The report finds:

* New Americans were nearly 9% of all registered voters in 2006

* New American registered voters jumped nearly 60% between 1996 and 2004

* New Americans’ share of registered voters exceeded the 2004 victory margins in 16 states including battlegrounds: Nevada, Florida, New Mexico and Pennsylvania.

This is expected to be a banner year for New American voters due to record-breaking naturalization rates of up to three million new citizens; turbo-charged registration efforts by groups like the We Are America Alliance and “Ya es Hora, Ve y Vota;” [and LWV–ed.] and aggressive GOTV efforts in ethnic communities, which will likely result in Latino turnout hitting record highs in 2008—surpassing the 7.6 million Latino voters who turned out in 2004.

“This report could not be more well-timed,” said Angela Kelley, Director of the Immigration Policy Center. “The campaigns, pundits and press have spent this entire election cycle searching for a new and weighty voting bloc. Their search is over. Step aside Soccer Moms and NASCAR Dads. New Americans are ready to vote. This group has been decades in the making and they are certain to flex their voting muscles this year.”

For the report as a pdf file, go to <http://immigrationpolicy.org/images/File/specialreport/NewCitizenVotersWEBversion.pdf> or see the report at the IPC Web site: www.immigrationpolicy.org/index.php?content=home.

The Immigration Policy Center, established in 2003, is the non-partisan policy arm of the American Immigration Law Foundation.

Treasurer’s Report, October 2008

Joan Stark, Treasurer



Previous Checking Balance –September 24, 2008

\$396.72

Income:

“In Kind” Treasurer Supplies, Joan Stark	\$14.43
Dues – (1) Individual @ \$55.00	55.00
LWVEF Reimbursement for 2008 Voter Guides	852.00
LWVEF Reimbursement for 2008 RoseFest Parade flags	805.34

Total Income: \$1726.77

Expenses:

“In Kind” Treasurer Supplies, Joan Stark	\$14.43
#4203 – LWVMNEF, “ Road To Election Day ” DVDs	146.97
#4204 – Judith Rosenblatt, Acrobat 6.0 Software	69.99
#4205 – Linda McLoon, Postage, Stationery Supplies (Voter Service)	26.89
#4206 - Linda McLoon, Postage, Envelopes (Voter Service)	24.11
#4207 – Office Depot , October Voter , Printing/Stamps	142.71

Total Expenses: \$425.10

Checking Account Balance October 22, 2008

\$1,698.39

Savings Account Balance September 30, 2008 \$2,990.20

Education Fund Balance October 14, 2008 \$5,595.11

Contributions always welcome

Just make out a check to *LWVRoMaFH* (for the operating fund, not tax deductible) or to *LWVRoMaFH Education Fund* (tax deductible), and send it to:

Joan Stark, Treasurer
LWVRoMaFH
1009 Parker Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113-6458



Membership Dues

To join or renew, make your dues check payable to LWVRoMaFH

Individual membership –	\$55/year
Household membership (two or more) –	\$80/year
New member, special 1st year discount –	\$40/year

Send to:
Karen Schaffer
LWVRoMaFH Membership Co-chair
2100 Fairview Ave. N
Roseville, MN 55113-5452

LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force formed

The LWVUS has announced the formation of a seven-member Health Care Education Task Force, whose purpose is to design a program for educating LWV members about health care. Twenty-seven well-qualified League members applied and the League very much appreciated the broad interest and passion for health care exemplified by members nationwide.

The Task Force members are Olin Bray (NM), Sue Breden-steiner (TN), Robin Lane (NC), Susan Leinberger (PA), Doris Nelson (CA) and Rhonda Tewes(MA). LWVUS/EF Director Janis McMillen chairs the Task Force. (from LWVUS Leaders' Update, 10/9)

Leagues Working Tirelessly to Protect Voters

In the last week of October, the League had several victories against voter suppression. One such success was in New Mexico: The State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters in a case against the Secretary of State involving how "improperly" marked ballots (such as ballots that had a circle or a check mark next to a name instead of an X, etc.) should be counted in the November 4 general election.

The League continues to work with states to address voter suppression issues as they come up. A more detailed analysis will be completed once the elections are over. (from LWVUS Leaders' Update, 10/30)

LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Background Paper Now Available Online

Read this new paper on the use of coal as an influence on climate change. It is available at <www.lwv.org>. Click on "For Members," "Projects and Programs."

Or see the PDF file at <www.lwv.org/Content/ContentGroups/StudyTaskforces/GlobalClimateChange/CCTF_COAL_HopeFalsePromiseDisaster.pdf>.

Here is the introduction to the paper, minus the footnotes.

Coal—The Great Hope, the False Promise or a Disaster in The Making?

by Chad Tolman (LWVDE)

Coal – Is It:

The great hope?

It is cheap and readily available in many parts of the world; it can reduce oil imports and fuel economies in developing countries.

The false promise?

If all the costs from mining, transportation, electricity production, and disposal of wastes are counted, and added to the costs of environmental degradation and human health impacts, coal is not "cheap." It accounts for much of the emissions of sulfur and nitrogen oxides, mercury, particulate matter, and carbon dioxide in the world today.

A disaster in the making?

The carbon content of coal per unit of energy produced is the highest of all the fossil fuels. The carbon/energy ratio for coal is 5, oil is 4 and gas is 3. Currently, coal-fired power produces about 50% of the electricity in the United States and 80% in China. If the world's remaining coal is burned and the carbon dioxide (CO2) released, the atmospheric concentration of CO2 could be increased by 100 to 300 parts per million (ppm)—enough to produce catastrophic consequences.

A recent MIT study found that China is already consuming about twice as much coal as the US, which has the equivalent of 500 coal plants of 500 megawatts (MW) each. China is adding two that size each week, causing its CO2 emissions to increase by 9% just in 2006. The feasibility of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), which might make it possible to keep most of the CO2 out of the atmosphere by storing it deep underground, has not yet been demonstrated at a commercial scale.

LWVRoMaFH continuing information on code enforcement

Don Monson from the city of Roseville will make a presentation on code enforcement at the November 17 Roseville City Council meeting. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. League members are invited to attend the council meeting (wear your LWV button) or to watch it on the government TV channel. Look up the agenda on the internet at the city's Web site, <www.ci.roseville.mn.us>. Click on "City Government," then "Minutes and Agendas." If there is something you would like to have further discussion about, e-mail Georgeann Hall at <gdhall96244@q.com>. Code enforcement will be the topic at the March 2009 unit meetings.

League begins LWVUS study of National Popular Voter Compact

At the 2008 LWVUS convention, the delegates adopted a mini-study of a proposed compact among the states to elect the president by nationwide popular vote. A national committee has been chosen, headed by LWVUS Board member Carolie Mullan (TX), which will conduct the study by e-mail and conference calls and will produce study materials, including pros and cons, for posting on the LWVUS Web site (and reproduction here, if feasible)..

LWVROMaFH has scheduled discussion of this topic for its January 2009 unit meetings. Thus far, no materials have been posted except the compact itself, below. We will notify you when study materials become available. Please keep this information for the January discussion.

Agreement among the States to Elect the President by Nationwide Popular Vote

Article I - Membership

Any state of the United States and the District of Columbia may become a member of this agreement by enacting this agreement.

Article II – Right of the People in Member States to Vote for President and Vice President

Each member state shall conduct a statewide popular election for President and Vice President of the United States

Article III – Manner of Appointing Presidential Electors in Member States

Prior to the time set by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, the chief election official of each member state shall determine the number of votes for each presidential slate in each State of the United States and in the District of Columbia in which votes have been cast in a statewide popular election and shall add such votes together to produce a “national popular vote total” for each presidential slate.

The chief election official of each member state shall designate the presidential slate with the largest national popular vote total as the “national popular vote winner.”

The presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment in that official’s own state of the elector slate nominated in that state in association with the national popular vote winner.

At least six days before the day fixed by law for the meeting and voting by the presidential electors, each member state shall make a final determination of the number of popular votes cast in the state for each presidential slate and shall communicate an official statement of such determination within 24 hours to the chief election official of each other member state.

The chief election official of each member state shall treat as conclusive an official statement containing the number of popular votes in a state for each presidential slate made by the day established by federal law for making a state’s final determination conclusive as to the counting of electoral votes by Congress.

In event of a tie for the national popular vote winner, the presidential elector certifying official of each member state shall certify the appointment of the elector slate nominated in association with the presidential slate receiving the largest number of popular votes within that official’s own state. If, for any reason, the number of presidential electors nominated in a member state in association with the national popular vote winner is less than or greater than that state’s number of electoral votes, the presidential candidate on the presidential slate that has been designated as the national popular vote winner shall have the power to nominate the presidential electors for that state and that state’s presidential elector certifying official shall certify the appointment of such nominees. The chief election official of each member state shall immediately release to the public all vote counts or statements of votes as they are determined or obtained.

This article shall govern the appointment of presidential electors in each member state in any year in which this agreement is, on July 20, in effect in states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes.

Article IV – Other Provisions

This agreement shall take effect when states cumulatively possessing a majority of the electoral votes have enacted this agreement in substantially the same form and the enactments by such states have taken effect in each state.

Any member state may withdraw from this agreement, except that a withdrawal occurring six months or less before the end of a President’s term shall not become effective until a President or Vice President shall have been qualified to serve the next term.

The chief executive of each member state shall promptly notify the chief executive of all other states of when this agreement has been enacted and has taken effect in that official’s state, when the state has withdrawn from this agreement, and when this agreement takes effect generally.

This agreement shall terminate if the electoral college is abolished.

If any provision of this agreement is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

Article V – Definitions

For purposes of this agreement,

“*chief executive*” shall mean the Governor of a State of the United States or the Mayor of the District of Columbia;

(cont’d on next page)

Vote Compact, cont'd from p. 6

“*elector slate*” shall mean a slate of candidates who have been nominated in a state for the position of presidential elector in association with a presidential slate;

“*chief election official*” shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the total number of popular votes for each presidential slate;

“*presidential elector*” shall mean an elector for President and Vice President of the United States;

“*presidential elector certifying official*” shall mean the state official or body that is authorized to certify the appointment of the state’s presidential electors;

“*presidential slate*” shall mean a slate of two persons, the first of whom has been nominated as a candidate for President of the United States and the second of whom has been nominated as a candidate for Vice President of the United States, or any legal successors to such persons, regardless of whether both names appear on the ballot presented to the voter in a particular state;

“*state*” shall mean a State of the united States and the District of Columbia; and

“*statewide popular election*” shall mean a general election in which votes are cast for presidential slates by individual voters and counted on a statewide basis.

LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner

Sunday, December 7, 2008, 4:30–7:30 p.m.

Little Venetian Restaurant

2900 Rice Street, Little Canada

Buffet Dinner Menu

Bread & Butter	Meat Ravioli (with red sauce)
Italian Salad	Chicken Parmesan
Vegetable Lasagna	Spumoni Pie

There will be a cash bar and we will have the entire restaurant for our event. The cost will be \$18 per person (includes tax and gratuity), and guests are welcome. The League needs at least 35 reservations (**by December 1, please**) to hold this price.

A short program will be presented by two women from Women’s Advocates, designated by the RoMaFH board as the charity to support for the second year in a row (these women will join us for dinner, so you may talk to them about their program during the meal). This is another way to support our broad-based diversity project.

Women’s advocates has suggested the following items for our members to contribute. Bring your contribution with you to the dinner, unwrapped.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| baby wipes | infant nail clippers |
| diapers & pull-ups, assorted sizes | assorted colored bath towels |
| Similac advanced infant formula | hand towels |
| baby bottles | wash clothes |
| baby lotion | used cell phones |
| Desitin | cash donations are always welcome |

More suggested gifts, just added: Winter coats, all sizes, for women and children; hats, mittens/gloves, and scarves for women and children; umbrellas; women’s pajamas; toothpaste, deodorant, and other toiletries.

Clip and return the form below with your check **payable to LWV R0MaFH** to: Georgeann Hall, 385 Transit Ave., Roseville, MN 55113 (or bring it to your November unit meeting).

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a cash donation, send a check, payable to Women’s Advocates, to Georgeann.

If you are interested in carpooling/getting a ride to the restaurant, please contact Georgeann at <gdhall96244@q.com> or 651-484-9057.

Reservation for LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner, Sun., Dec. 7, 2008

Name(s) _____

Number of Reservations_____ @ \$18.00 each.

Total enclosed \$_____

LWVRoMaFH Calendar

November 2008

Tue, 18, Unit – David Paxson, World Population Balance.
More information on pp.1 & 9 of October Voter.

Wed, 19, Unit – same topic and speaker

Wed, 19 – Board Meeting. Note: moved up one week because of Thanksgiving

December 2008

Sun, 7 – Holiday Dinner at Little Venetian, Little Canada, 4:30 p.m. *Details and registration form on p. 7.*

January 2009

Tue, 20, Unit – Presentation & Consensus, LWVUS mini-study on National Popular Vote Compact and Lively Issues: suggestions for LWVMN Program items to study, current positions to act on)

Wed, 21, Unit (same topics)

Wed, 28 – Board Meeting

February 2009

Tue, 17 – VIP General Meeting, “Questions & Answers with Elected Officials,” location TBA

Wed, 25 – Board Meeting

NOTE:

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wed at the Roseville Oval, Raider Room (except in April 2009, in the Fireside Room).

Third Tuesday evening unit meetings in Nov, Jan, March, April, and May will be at Grumpy’s Bar and Grill Restaurant (formerly Major’s & Lido’s), 2801 N. Snelling Ave. (off Lincoln Drive), Roseville, at 7:00 p.m.; social hour and dinner optional at 5:30 p.m. Minimum dinner cost is \$15.00 (to cover private room).

Third Wednesday morning unit meetings are held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 N. Victoria Ave., Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

All meetings are public

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

League of Women Voters of
Roseville, Maplewood & Falcon Heights
and nearby communities
Judy Rosenblatt, Voter Editor
2225 Draper Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113-5312